

the assembly of a convention of the Estates on the 10th July, which should adjourn to the 1st August in order to allow of the complete cessation of hostilities. The Parliament, subject to this condition, should be as valid "in all respects" as if summoned expressly by the king and queen, and all who had been wont to be present should have the right to attend without fear or constraint. Mary and Francis further undertook not to make peace or war without the consent of the Estates of the realm, and to confide the government to a council of twelve—seven of whom to be chosen by their majesties, and five by the Estates from twenty-four candidates nominated by the latter—and all offices of State to native-born Scotsmen. On the subject of religion, Monluc and Randan professed inability to treat, though they had received the fullest powers, and referred the lords to the king and queen. This was evidently a mere subterfuge to evade the demand for the establishment of Protestantism, but the lords ultimately agreed to choose commissioners in the ensuing Parliament to submit their remonstrances on this head to their majesties (Treaty of Edinburgh, 6th July 1560).

The historians have composed heaps of debatable matter on this treaty. In the ardour of argument they have usually overlooked one of its most remarkable features—for us the most interesting. The treaty clearly reveals the determination of these doughty Scots to take the management of their affairs into their own hands. Formally, they appear deferential to their rulers, but they took care to limit their action by the consent of Parliament in the important matter of peace and war, and to control the administration by investing in the Estates the nomination of the candidates from whom the sovereigns were to select the members of the council.

This transaction was a signal triumph for Cecil as well as for John Knox and his associates. If Queen Mary would ratify these stipulations and faithfully observe them, harmony between Scotland and England was assured. Cecil saw only a clear horizon where before the thunderclouds of international animosities had often lowered. The treaty, he wrote to Elizabeth, "would finally procure that conquest of Scotland which none of her progenitors, with all their battles, ever obtained, viz., the whole hearts and goodwill of the nobility